

“ROBBING THE CRADLE”

You don't hear that expression much anymore.
Is it because older women and the young men
they marry have both become more free to choose?
My great-aunt was fifteen years older than Uncle Mike.
At forty she had a baby, which made him
a handsome twenty-five-year-old father.
Gossip everywhere. “Henrietta,” they said,
“what the hell are you trying to do anyway?”
But she continued as if nothing had really happened.
Someone who could care less what others thought,
she outlived Uncle Mike by a good twenty years.
“Robbing the Cradle” they called it, with envy galore.
At quilting sessions the older women just shook
their heads. After all, ignorance falls through the cracks.